THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 19.17 crore was released initially to Karnataka in November, 2000 from State's annual accrual of Rs. 57.50 crore for year 2000-2001 from revamped Central Road Fund. Thereafter, an utilisation certificate for only Rs. 5.62 crore has been received during 2001-2002, so far from Karnataka and further funds to the tune of Rs. 5.62 crore have been released during 2001-2002 from Central Road Fund.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Flights to foreign countries from Kolkata

1629. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce more international flights particularly for Hongkong, Singapore and Jordan from Kolkata International Airport in view of foolproof security;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government have any plan to start more Air India flights from Kolkata?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Besides Indian Airlines, foreign airlines namely KLM, Royal Brunei Airlines, Druk Air, Biman Bangladesh, British Airways, Thai Airways, Royal Jordanian and Singapore Airlines are operating to/from Kolkata to various foreign destinations including Jordan and Singapore. Kolkata is also available as a point of call to the designated airlines of Hongkong. Actual operations, are however, matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned.

(c) Air India will be introducing twice weekly services to Bangkok from Kolkata with effect from 4th April, 2002.